

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
~~a game operable upon a wager by a player;~~
~~a plurality of reels in the game;~~
~~a plurality of fixed positions on said reels;~~
~~a plurality of symbols, each of said symbols located at one of the positions on the reels;~~
~~a plurality of swapping indicators associated with at least three symbols;~~
at least one display device; and
at least one processor programmed to operate with said at least one display device to:

- (a) generate and display a plurality of ~~the symbols, each of said plurality of symbols being displayed at their one of a plurality of fixed positions on the reels;~~
- (b) determine if a winning combination of symbols is displayed at the positions;
- (bc) if a winning combination of symbols is displayed at the positions, provide a first award to the a player for each winning combination of displayed symbols;
- (d) determine if, for each of the positions, a swapping indicator is displayed at the position simultaneously with the symbol displayed at the position;
- (ee) determine if at least three the-swapping indicators are displayed -associated with the at least three symbols are displayed and are in a predetermined configuration with respect to one another, to indicate the symbols to be rearranged and, and, if so, automatically rearrange each of the indicated symbols to the fixed positions of the other indicated symbols in a manner dictated by the predetermined configuration; and
- (df) provide a second award to the player for each winning combination of displayed symbols resulting from the rearrangement of the indicated symbols.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein each swapping indicator includes a portion of the predetermined configuration.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined configuration of the swapping indicators includes matching swapping indicators.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined configuration of the swapping indicators includes an alignment of swapping indicators on adjacent reels.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined configuration of the swapping indicators includes a predetermined number of said swapping indicators.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the number of indicated symbols is predetermined.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein at least two of the indicated symbols are on different reels.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein at least two of the indicated symbols must be on different paylines associated with the reels.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the manner of symbol rearrangement dictated by the predetermined configuration is selected from the group consisting of: ~~at least one processor is operable to rearrange each indicated symbol in a counter-clockwise rotational fashion; a clockwise rotation; a random rearrangement; and one of a plurality of predetermined rearrangement patterns.~~

Claim 10 (currently amended): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein each indicated symbol is first rearranged to the ~~fixed~~ position of the indicated symbol directly adjacent to said indicated symbol.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is operable to provide the second awards to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols after each rearrangement of the indicated symbols.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the processor is operable to rearrange at least two sets of indicated symbols.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein each set of indicated symbols includes a predetermined number of indicated symbols.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein each set of indicated symbols includes a predetermined number of indicated symbols indicated by swapping indicators in a predetermined configuration.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein the rearrangement of the indicated symbols in at least one set is different from the rearrangement of the indicated symbols in the other sets.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein the processor is operable to determine whether to arrange at least one set of indicated symbols based on whether any award is associated with a combination of displayed symbols.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein the player is enabled to determine whether to arrange at least one set of indicated symbols based on whether any award is associated with a combination of displayed symbols.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein the processor is operable to determine any winning combination of displayed symbols after each of the at least two sets of indicated symbols is rearranged.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein the processor is operable to determine any winning combination of displayed symbols after the at least two sets of indicated symbols are rearranged.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 12, wherein the processor is operable to rearrange the indicated symbols and determine any winning combination of displayed symbols for each rearrangement until the indicated symbols are rearranged to their original fixed positions on the reels before rearranging the indicated symbols of another set of the at least two sets of indicated symbols.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is operable to rearrange the indicated symbols and determine any winning combination of displayed symbols for each rearrangement until the indicated symbols are rearranged to their first fixed positions on the reels.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The gaming device of claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is operable to provide an award equal to the sum of the first and second awards.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A gaming device comprising:
a game operable upon a wager by a player;
a plurality of reels;
a plurality of symbols on said reels;
a plurality of swapping indicators associated with the plurality of symbols,
wherein the symbols are indicated if said swapping indicators associated with at least
three of said symbols are in a predetermined configuration; and
a display device adapted to display at least one set of indicated symbols on the
reels, wherein each of the indicated symbols in each set are rearranged to fixed
positions of the other indicated symbols in said set, and an award is provided to a player
for any winning combination of displayed symbols resulting from the rearrangement.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein a first award is
provided to the player for each winning combination of displayed symbols resulting from
spinning of said plurality of reels.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein each swapping
indicator includes a portion of the predetermined configuration.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the
predetermined configuration of the swapping indicators includes matching swapping
indicators.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the
predetermined configuration of the swapping indicators includes an alignment of
swapping indicators on adjacent reels.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the
predetermined configuration of the swapping indicators includes a predetermined
number of said swapping indicators.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the number of indicated symbols is predetermined.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein at least two of the indicated symbols are on different reels.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein at least two of the indicated symbols must be on different paylines associated with the reels.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein each indicated symbol is rearranged in a counter-clockwise rotational fashion.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein each indicated symbol is first rearranged to the fixed position of the indicated symbol directly adjacent to said indicated symbol.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein each set of indicated symbols includes a predetermined number of indicated symbols.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein each set of indicated symbols includes a predetermined number of indicated symbols indicated by swapping indicators in a predetermined configuration.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, which includes a determination of any winning combination of the displayed symbols which includes the rearranged symbols, wherein the determination occurs after each rearrangement of the indicated symbols to fixed positions of the other indicated symbols.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the rearrangement of the indicated symbols in at least one set is different from the rearrangement of the indicated symbols in the other sets.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the award provided to the player for any winning combination of displayed symbols is provided to the player after each of the sets of indicated symbols is rearranged.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the award provided to the player for any winning combination of displayed symbols is provided to the player after the sets of indicated symbols are rearranged.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the indicated symbols are rearranged and an award provided to the player for each winning combination of displayed symbols until the indicated symbols are rearranged to their first fixed positions on the reels.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The gaming device of claim 23, wherein the indicated symbols of a set are rearranged and an award provided to the player for each winning combination of displayed symbols until the indicated symbols are rearranged to their original fixed positions on the reels before another set of indicated symbols is rearranged.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a plurality of symbols~~reels~~, wherein each of said a plurality of symbols is being displayed at a fixed one of a plurality of positions~~on said plurality of reels~~;

(b) determining if a winning combination of symbols is displayed at the positions;

(c) if a winning combination of symbols is displayed at the positions, providing a first award to a player for each winning combination of displayed symbols;

(d) determining if, for each of the positions, a swapping indicator is displayed at the position simultaneously with the symbol displayed at the position;

(e) if at least three swapping indicators are displayed in a predetermined configuration with respect to one another,

~~(b) associating a plurality of swapping indicators with the plurality of symbols;~~

~~(c) spinning the reels to display a plurality of the symbols at the fixed positions on the reels;~~

~~(d) providing a first award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols;~~

~~(e) indicating a plurality of displayed symbols to be rearranged and if the swapping indicators associated with said displayed symbols are in a predetermined configuration to indicate the symbols to be rearranged, and automatically rearranging each of the indicated symbols to the a fixed positions, wherein each of the indicated symbols is moved to fixed positions of the other indicated symbols in a manner dictated by the predetermined configuration; and~~

(f) providing a second award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols resulting from the rearrangement of the indicated symbols.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, wherein rearranging the indicated symbols includes moving each of the indicated symbols to a predetermined number of ~~fixed positions~~ which are different from its first ~~fixed position~~.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, wherein rearranging the indicated symbols in the manner dictated by the predetermined configuration includes rearranging the symbols in a fashion selected from the group consisting of: a counter-clockwise rotation; a clockwise rotation; a random rearrangement; and one of a plurality of predetermined rearrangement patterns~~rearranging the indicated symbols includes moving each indicated symbol in a counter-clockwise rotational fashion.~~

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, wherein rearranging the indicated symbols includes first moving each of the indicated symbols to the fixed position of the indicated symbol directly adjacent to each of said indicated symbols.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of claim 45, wherein the fixed position of the indicated symbol adjacent to each of said indicated symbols is counter-clockwise from the ~~fixed~~ position of the indicated symbol.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 42, wherein providing the second award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols occurs after each rearrangement of the indicated symbols.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, which includes rearranging the indicated symbols and providing the second award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols after each rearrangement until each indicated symbol is moved to its first ~~fixed~~ position on the reels.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The method of claim 42, which includes at least one set of a plurality of the indicated symbols, wherein each of the indicated symbols of said set is rearranged to the fixed positions of the other indicated symbols in said set.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The method of claim 49, wherein each set of indicated symbols includes a predetermined number of indicated symbols.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The method of claim 49, wherein each set of indicated symbols includes a predetermined number of indicated symbols indicated by swapping indicators in a predetermined configuration.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): The method of claim 49, which includes at least two sets of indicated symbols.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein rearranging the indicated symbols in at least one set is different from rearranging the indicated symbols in the other sets.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein providing the second award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols occurs after each rearrangement of each set of indicated symbols.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein providing the second award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols occurs after each rearrangement of the sets of indicated symbols.

Claim 56 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein rearranging the indicated symbols of one set of indicated symbols and providing the second award to the player for each winning combination of the displayed symbols until each indicated symbol is moved to its first fixed position on the reels occurs before rearranging another set of indicated symbols.

Claim 57 (withdrawn): The method of claim 42, wherein the steps (a) to (f) are provided to the player through a data network.

Claim 58 (withdrawn): The method of claim 57, wherein the data network is an internet.